

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01063 212006Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /018 W
-----212011Z 051145 /47

R 211609Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2061
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1063

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, CG, TO
SUBJECT: KASONGO MUTUALE, ZAIRE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 087243, (B) 76 KINSHASA 3067,

1. KASONGO HAS PERFORMED ADMIRABLY AS AMBASSADOR OF ZAIRE TO THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO, A POST WHICH IS CONSIDERED DELICATE AND UNUSUALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONAL PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE. HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING ONE OF THE INTELLECTUAL HEAVYWEIGHTS OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS. KASONGO'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING ABILITY IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE. HIS FRENCH IS OF A HIGH QUALITY. HE IS WELL INFORMED, ESPECIALLY ON AFRICAN POLITICAL MATTERS, AND, ALTHOUGH DISCREET IS WILLING TO SHARE OCCASIONAL CONFIDENCES.

2. HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE TOGOLESE AND HAS CIRCULATED WIDELY AT ALL SOCIAL LEVELS. HE CARRIES HIMSELF WITH DIGNITY AND A CERTAIN RESERVE, BUT HE IS WARM AND APPROACHABLE AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN REPRESENTATIONAL SITUATIONS. AN ATTRACTIVE MAN, HE HAS SHORT-CROPPED HAIR, REGULAR FEATURES, HE APPROACHES SIX FEET IN HEIGHT AND IS MUSCULAR AND FIT IN APPEARANCE. HE FOLLOWS A RIGOROUS PROGRAM OF DAILY EXERCISE. HE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN SUBJECT TO OCCASIONAL RESPIRATORY AILMENTS DURING
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HIS STAY IN LOME.

3. HE IS VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE U.S. AND HAS HAD EASY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR PALMER AND AMBASSADOR RAWLS.

4. KASONGO HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO CULTIVATE THE

NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO LOME ADEUGA ADEKUOYE AND THEY HAVE HAD A REGULAR PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. THE NIGERIAN, A PRICKLY AND BRILLIANT MAN, HAS CONFIDED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE FINDS KASONGO HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, A MAN OF CHARACTER AND A MAN WHO IS WIDELY RESPECTED IN TOGO AND ELSEWHERE. THE NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAS SAID THAT HIS CONTACTS IN ZAIRE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT MOBUTU HAS DELIBERATELY KEPT KASONGO AWAY FROM KINSHASA BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT A MAN OF SUCH ABILITY AND CHARACTER NEAR HIM.

5. ON THE OCCASIONS THAT MOBUTU HAS VISITED LOME, KASONGO HAS GIVEN EVERY INDICATION OF BEING A DUTIFUL PROFESSIONAL. HIS RESERVE IS SUCH THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PERCEIVE HIS REAL EMOTIONS, HOWEVER, AFTER HIS MOST RECENT VISIT TO KINSHASA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HE TOLD AN INTIMATE THAT HE WAS DISCOURAGED AND SADDENED BY THE STATE OF THINGS IN ZAIRE AND PARTICULARLY SO BY THE STATE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OF THE ZAIRE ARMED FORCES.

6. KASONGO IS MARRIED AND REPORTEDLY HAS EIGHT CHILDREN. SEVERAL OF THE YOUNGER CHILDREN HAVE BEEN WITH HIM IN LOME, BUT HIS WIFE AND OLDER CHILDREN REMAINED IN ZAIRE DURING HIS AMBASSADORSHIP.
PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770434/aaaabczm.tel
Line Count: 86
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINR, CG, TO, US, (KASONGO MUTUALE)
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